

# ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL



'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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Headteacher: Mr G Moore

'It Really Does Matter'

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

## Returning to School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I started my last letter in July with, 'Before we know it, September will be upon us' – I cannot believe it is here already. It is true that time appears to fly by as you get older!

Despite the disappointing weather, I hope that everyone enjoyed a fun-filled break and got to spend time with family and friends. Personally, I loved returning to Parkrun and cramming in as much live music as possible.

As a staff team, we have been busy making the final arrangements for the children's return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September – we cannot wait to see them!

I am very conscious that children's education (and lives) has been dramatically affected these past 18 months; we are so looking forward to this year and a return to 'normality' where our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils. I can promise you that all of our efforts will be put into making sure your child is happy and successfully learning at Abbotswood.

Although I am sure that the children will love returning to school, we are aware that many of them will not know what Abbotswood actually looked like before COVID-19. This is the case for many of our staff too. We will do everything in our power to ensure that the children settle smoothly back into school life.

So, what does this normality look like?

School Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration 08.40-08.55</li><li>• Break 10.35-11.00</li><li>• Year 3 and 4 Lunch 12.15-13.00</li><li>• Year 5 and 6 Lunch 12.25-13.10</li><li>• School ends 15.15</li></ul> <p>➤ Please note that we are operating a longer 'soft' start for the mornings. The gates will open at 08.40. Children will go straight to class (without lining up) and the register will be taken as the children arrive – closing at 08.55.</p> <p>➤ Access to the school can be gained via both the Ringwood Road entrance and the Lawford Way gate (closest to the bike sheds).</p> <p>➤ There will be no access to the playground for parents between 08.40-08.55 so please say goodbye to your child at the gate.</p>
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Bubbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the biggest changes is that children will no longer be in class bubbles. Therefore, for example, children will be able to mix with everyone at break and lunch.</li> </ul>
Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.</li> <li>• A letter will be sent out next week with booking details.</li> </ul>
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first two days (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021) will be slightly different in the mornings only.</li> <li>• To enable them to settle in, Year 3 will start at the later time of 09.15 on Monday and Tuesday. They will line up with their class teacher on the Year 4 playground at the front of the school and will be taken to the Year 3 entrance.</li> <li>• It is important to note that Year 3 should arrive via the Ringwood Road entrance on these two days.</li> <li>• It is also imperative that Year 3 do not arrive at school before 09.05 as they will clash with the rest of the school.</li> <li>• Note: Mr Humphries has posted a video with details of this on the Year 2 Facebook page.</li> </ul>
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legally, individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (if they are under 18 or have received both vaccines).</li> </ul>
Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a return to tighter uniform expectations (including PE). Please see the information on our website if you are unsure of these expectations. <a href="https://www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk/school-uniform">https://www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk/school-uniform</a></li> <li>• Children can wear PE kits all day on OSA and PE days.</li> </ul>
OSA days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday – Year 6</li> <li>• Tuesday – Year 5</li> <li>• Wednesday – Year 3</li> <li>• Thursday – Year 4</li> </ul> <p>➤ You will be notified of your child's PE day next week.</p>
Educational Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School trips and residential visits can re-start – this is wonderful news!</li> </ul>
INSET Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021</li> <li>• Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022</li> <li>• Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022</li> </ul>
Contacting the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please continue to call or email the school at <a href="mailto:admin.office@abbsch.co.uk">admin.office@abbsch.co.uk</a> 02380 863159 for non-urgent messages.</li> <li>• Please also note that we are a 100% cashless school. School dinners can be paid for via SCOPAY.</li> </ul>
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In such a large school which is situated on a busy main road, this can be challenging at times.</li> </ul> <p>1. Please park responsibly and respect each other and our close neighbours.</p>

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Totton and Eling Cricket Club have kindly agreed to continue the agreement whereby parents can use their car park at both drop-off and pick-up times.</li><li>3. Unfortunately, in a school with over 100 staff, we are unable to allow parents to park on the school site.</li></ol> |
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I apologise if this seems like a lengthy list, yet I am sure that there will be things that I have missed. Please do not worry if you are unsure about absolutely everything; this will become clear over the next couple of weeks and we will work through this together as a team. I am also sure that we will have to make certain changes when we learn from the experience of returning to 'normality' again.

Lastly, once again, I wanted to promise you that, as a staff team, we are fully committed to providing an educational experience which enhances your child's life chances and happiness. We look forward to working together to building a future that your children deserve. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Glenn Moore  
Headteacher